(b) It would not be possible to lay down a time limit for such a major procurement project. However, the government is keen on early finalisation of the issue.

(c) No contract for the AJT has been finalised.

**Setting-up of handicraft complexes in Andhra Pradesh**

*228. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided assistance for setting-up of handicraft complexes in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the places where these complexes have been set up; and

(c) the other places in the State where more such compelxes are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. assistance has been provided for setting up of an "Urban Haat" at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No proposal is pending with the Government of India.

**Indo-US Security and Strategic Dialogue poised for a Higher Leap**

*229. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Minister has stated that New Delhi would ask Washington to immediately lift the ban on sale of high-tech armaments and systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps Government have so far taken or propose to take to improve relation with USA?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. No formal request has been made.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has had a high level of engagement with the new U.S. Administration since it entered office in January, 2001. Regular consultations

have been held at the ministerial and official levels across the full range of bilateral activities. Prime Minister visited Washington from 7-9 November, 2001 at the invitation of President Bush. The two leaders agreed on a number of initiatives to build a mutually beneficial long-term partnership between India and the United States.

**Human Rights violations**

*230. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints of Human Rights violations received during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 till date, State and UT-wise;

(b) the number of complaints on which action has been taken;

(c) whether Human Rights Cell is in every State;

(d) if so, the detials thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) As per the information received from National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the number of complaints of human rights violation received by them during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and till date, State and UT-wise, is given in the Statement enclosed *(See* below*)*

(b) The number of complaints on which action has been taken by NHRC are given below:—

| 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 (Till date) |
|---|---|---|
| 47819 | 60287 | 35437 |

(c) to (e) NHRC has intimated that Human Rights Cells are functioning in the Police Headquarters of all States and UTs' except in the newly created States of Uttaranchal and Jharkhand.